

**IN THE CLAIM S:**

After the heading and before claim 1 insert heading:

What is claimed is:

The following list of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the above-captioned application:

Claim 1: (original) An iris diaphragm comprising an annular base, an annular rotatable element and a number of leaves which can be mounted to form a variable aperture, each leaf extending between the base and element and being connected thereto in a pivotal relationship, is characterised in that a first end of said leaves is pivotally connected to an opening provided on the element or base by means of a burst hole joint, and a second end of each of said leaves being rotatably secured in a sliding relationship to a slide provided on the base or the element by means of a slide pin secured to the leaf.

Claim 2: (original) An iris diaphragm as claimed in Claim 1 in which the burst hole joints attach the leaves to the base, and the slides are provided on the rotatable element.

Claim 3: (original) An iris diaphragm as claimed in Claim 1 in which the burst hole joints attach the leaves to the rotatable element, and the slides are provided on the base.

- Claim 4: (currently amended) An iris diaphragm as claimed in Claim 2  
~~or 3~~ in which the burst hole joints comprise an opening provided in the rotatable element, through which the material of the leaf has been punched, the parts of the leaf which extend through the opening being folded back against the rotatable element to provide a secure fixing.
- Claim 5: (original) An iris diaphragm as claimed in Claim 4 in which the second ends of the leaves are provided with slide pins, which are adapted to fit into the slides.
- Claim 6. (original) An iris diaphragm as claimed in Claim 5 in which the slide pins comprise a cylindrical pin.
- Claim 7. (currently amended) An iris diaphragm as claimed in ~~any of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1 in which the leaves are mounted at equal points around the circumference of the iris aperture, and in which the inner edges of the leaves are provided with a curve which corresponds to the curvature of the aperture.
- Claim 8. (original) An iris diaphragm as claimed in Claim 7 in which the rotatable element is a disc.
- Claim 9. (original) An iris diaphragm as claimed in Claim 8 in which the disc is disposed in the base.

- Claim 10. (original) An iris diaphragm as claimed in Claim 9 in which the disc is provided with an operating handle which extends through an opening provided in the base.
- Claim 11. (original) An iris diaphragm as claimed in Claim 10 in which the operating handle is connected to an operating means.
- Claim 12. (original) An iris diaphragm as claimed in Claim 11 in which the operating means is an electric motor.
- Claim 13. (currently amended) An iris diaphragm as claimed in ~~any of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1 in which the iris is adapted for use with a spot light.
- Claim 14. (currently amended) An iris diaphragm as claimed in ~~any of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1 in which the iris is provided with ~~18~~ eighteen leaves.
- Claim 15. (currently amended) An iris diaphragm as claimed in ~~any of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1 in which the iris is a dual plane iris.
- Claim 16. (cancelled).

Claim 17: (new) An iris diaphragm as claimed in Claim 3 in which the burst hole joints comprise an opening provided in the rotatable element, through which the material of the leaf has been punched, the parts of the leaf which extend through the opening being folded back against the rotatable element to provide a secure fixing.